



Kestrel in flight, Kestrel, Linnet and Fox (Photos from Peter Hyde).

Share your pet or Hamble photos for us to include in future newsletters! Send them to us via Facebook, or email them to danielle@smartmarketinguk.com

WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

Spring has well and truly arrived, and it's been wonderful to see Hamble starting to come back to life after the long winter months. The Foreshore is busy again with families enjoying the waterfront, dog walkers making the most of the longer evenings, and the first boats of the season heading out onto the river. After what felt like an endless run of rain and grey skies, it's a real tonic to finally feel some warmth in the sunshine. As always, there's plenty going on in the village, and this month's newsletter is packed with news from our community groups, Council updates, and a few things to look forward to over the coming weeks.

It's been a busy period for the Council team. Behind the scenes, there's been a great deal of work involved in the transfer of assets from Eastleigh Borough Council as part of the Local Government Reorganisation – a complex process that requires careful planning to make sure we get it right for Hamble. At the same time, our Grounds team has been busy preparing the village's green spaces for spring, and the day-to-day business of running the Council continues at pace. I'm grateful to our staff team for everything they do to keep things moving.

One matter which has taken considerable time and effort is the ongoing saga regarding Hamble Airfield. As you will be aware, the Parish Council is pursuing a Statutory Review of the decision to grant planning permission for a quarry at the Airfield. Our legal team has submitted the Review application to the High Court and the process is ongoing. There is no significant update at this stage, but

we will of course share any news as soon as we have it – please keep an eye on our website, social media and noticeboards.

Elsewhere, there's plenty to look forward to. Our Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Wednesday 6 May at Hamble Primary School – this is your meeting; a chance to hear what the Council has been working on, ask questions, and raise the things that matter most to you. We'll also be announcing the winners of this year's Community Awards, and we're inviting local organisations to come along and have a stand to showcase what they do. It promises to be a great evening, and I really hope to see as many of you there as possible.

We still have one vacancy on the Council and are looking for a new Councillor. If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the time. Being a Parish Councillor is incredibly rewarding – it's about much more than planning applications and budgets. It's about shaping the future of our village: where should we be investing? How do we protect what makes Hamble special? There's a lot of exciting work ahead, and we'd love you to be part of it. The deadline for applications is Thursday 9 April – see **page 3** for details.

If you have any questions about the Council's work, please do not hesitate to get in touch – we're always happy to hear from you.

Cllr Chris Jones, Chair



PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS



NOMINATE YOUR COMMUNITY HEROES!

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community? We're inviting nominations for our Annual Community Awards, which recognises individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to life in Hamble. Winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6 May – but we need your help to find them!

There are three categories of award:

- **Community Recognition Award** – Recognising individuals aged 17 and above who have significantly contributed to the well-being of the Hamble community.
- **Community Recognition Award for Young People** – Celebrating the efforts of individuals aged 16 or under who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit or achievement.
- **Community Recognition Award for Groups** – Acknowledging voluntary organisations, clubs, or groups that have made a meaningful impact on the community in Hamble.

Who can be nominated?

Nominations are open to individuals who live or work in Hamble and can be made for acts of service, achievements, or projects completed between January and December 2025.

The Community Recognition Awards for Adults and Young People are for individuals, while the Groups award is for voluntary groups, charities, or organisations (formal or informal). Parish Councillors and Hamble Parish Council employees cannot be nominated, and self-nominations will not be accepted.

When will winners be announced?

Winners will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2026, with their stories featured in the May newsletter and on our social media channels. Each winner will receive a certificate and a £100 gift voucher in recognition of their contributions.

How can I nominate someone?

- Online: Visit <https://bit.ly/3Nnw56J> and complete the nomination form.
- Offline: Collect a nomination form from the Parish Office, complete and return it either in person (during office hours) or via email to: clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk



As part of your nomination, you will be asked to provide the name and contact details of the nominee, the category in which you would like them to be considered, and a statement of up to 300 words explaining why the nominee deserves the award.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be received by 27 April 2026.

How will the winners be chosen?

Nominations will be reviewed by the Council, assessing the nominee's impact, effort, and community benefit. Factors considered include: the positive impact on neighbours and the community, support for vulnerable groups, enhancement of local services or the environment, time and dedication invested, challenges faced, creativity or innovation, leadership, and the overall scale of their impact.

Submit your nominations today and help us recognise those who go the extra mile!

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS: SHOWCASE WHAT YOU DO!

As part of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6 May, we'd like to invite local community organisations to come along, set up a stand, and tell residents about what you do.

This is a great opportunity to raise your profile, recruit new members, and connect with the wider community. This invitation is for community organisations and voluntary groups, not businesses.

If you'd like a stand or would like more information, please send an email to danielle@smartmarketinguk.com.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2026

Every year, the Parish Council holds an Annual Parish Meeting – and this is one of the most important dates in our calendar. Unlike a regular Council meeting, this is your meeting. It's a chance for the community to come together, hear what the Council has been doing over the past year, ask questions, raise concerns, and tell us what matters most to you.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 May from 6pm at Hamble Primary School.

Whether you want to find out more about the Council's work, challenge us on something, or simply come along and listen, we'd love to see you there. Your voice matters, and this is the perfect opportunity to make it heard.

COULD YOU HELP US MAKE HAMBLE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK?

Do you have skills and insights you want to share? Do you enjoy being part of a team – helping to get things done? We currently have one vacancy on the Council and invite applications from Hamble residents who would like to get involved and help represent the views of our village.

If you have a few hours to spare each month and would like to contribute to your community, why not consider becoming a Councillor? The time commitment is typically at least 5 hours a month, and potentially more depending on how much you want to get involved. Importantly, you'll be joining a team and should enjoy working with other people – including other councillors, the staff team, residents, and other organisations.

The **deadline for applications is Thursday 9 April**, and you can find more information here: <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj>. If shortlisted, you will be invited to the Full Council meeting at 7pm on Monday 13 April 2026, where the Council will select the candidates.

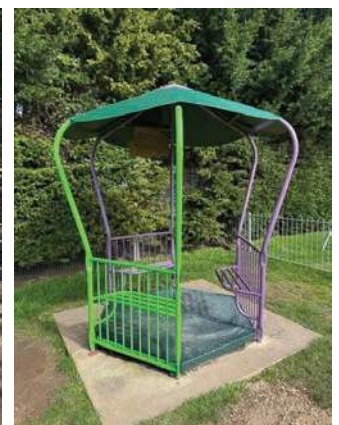


UPDATE FROM YOUR COUNCIL: WHAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON

- **Asset transfers:** We continue to work on the transfer of assets from Eastleigh Borough Council to Hamble Parish Council as part of the Local Government Reorganisation. Several assets have now been identified for transfer, and the process is ongoing. We'll keep you updated as things progress.
- **New interpretation boards:** We've been working on a project to create new interpretation boards for the village, funded by a grant from Eastleigh Borough Council. The aim is to bring some consistency to the boards around Hamble and refresh the content. The first seven boards should be ready soon – watch this space!
- **Dinghy park tidy-up:** The Hamble Conservation Volunteers kindly helped with a tidy-up of the dinghy park, and we'll be carrying out one of our audits shortly. Please make sure your dinghy has its sticker displayed, is in the correct space, and is on a well-maintained trailer.



- **Mount Pleasant repairs:** We've been carrying out repairs at Mount Pleasant, including sprucing up the Youth Shelter – see the photos below.
- **Welcome Jim!** We're pleased to welcome Jim, the newest member of our Estates and Maintenance team. Welcome aboard!



RANGER'S REMARKS

Hello Hamble Habitants.

My best friend just confessed that it was him who broke my favourite lamp... I don't think I'll be able to look at him in the same light ever again!

April in the UK is a vibrant spring month with average daytime temperatures around 13°C. It's a season of blooming landscapes, increased sunshine, and occasional erratic rain showers. With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, the grass has fully awoken from its winter slumber. This means it's time for the grounds team to dust off the mowers and trimmers. As you can imagine, maintaining Hamble's green spaces to keep the village looking its best is a never-ending cycle, with priorities and work adapted as the seasons change and weather permits!



As a Council, Hamble Parish has a conscious appreciation of trees and nature and is eager to document, enhance and protect biodiversity. In 2017, to aid in this work, the Council produced a Parish Biodiversity Plan with the help of a local ecology consultancy. This plan sets out the habitats and potential species we can support, and highlights areas in need of enhancement to offer further opportunities for native species to thrive. Areas that become overgrown with bramble, ivy and invasive species such as laurel will effectively reduce the food source for native wildlife and decrease diversity. A well-managed green space gives visitors a much higher chance of a wildlife encounter. That magical glimpse of a deer, or a family of rabbits appearing from a hedgerow, can be quite a profound experience.

The grounds team has managed to salvage some of the benches removed during the recent Foreshore renovations. The latest one to be upcycled and given a new lease of life can be found at Westfield Common and is already being enjoyed by dog walkers taking a little scenic rest.



I've been teaching my dog to fetch tools from my workshop... He's not perfect, but he knows the drill.

Mark Cowley, Estates Ranger

FORESHORE CAR PARK: NEW FENCING TO PROTECT SHOREBIRDS

Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC), working in conjunction with Bird Aware Solent, will shortly be installing a new post and rail fence along the frontage between Hamble Common Beach car park and the Foreshore – a stretch of approximately 100 metres. The aim is to protect the important shorebird habitats along this section of coastline by guiding visitors through a single, centrally located access point to the beach, reducing disturbance to feeding and resting birds.

The fence will be constructed from durable, brown, wood-effect recycled plastic, standing approximately 90cm high with three horizontal rails. A 1.5-metre-wide gap will be provided roughly halfway along for access between the car park and the beach, where a permanent information sign with Bird Aware behaviour messaging will be installed. At either end, the fence will tie into existing coastal defences and the exclusion fence around the old gun emplacement. As part of the works, EBC will also be reinforcing the stone edging of the car park, which is currently eroding and cracking.

We understand that this will represent a noticeable change to a well-used area, and we appreciate that some residents and visitors may have questions or views about the project. EBC have told us that the works are due to start in April, although the exact timing has not yet been confirmed and may be subject to change.

This is an Eastleigh Borough Council project, carried out on EBC-owned land. We are sharing this information to give you advance notice of the changes. If you have any questions about the works, please contact Eastleigh Borough Council directly.



Hamble Common Beach Car Park Proposals Plan

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

We had a very interesting meeting on Tuesday 10 March when Alan Whitlock from The Spitfire Makers Trust came along to tell us what it is all about. A captivated audience of over 40 members listened as Alan explained that the Trust was set up in 2020 to commemorate, preserve and share the heritage of the WW2 Spitfire Makers for the public benefit of future generations in Southampton, Hampshire and beyond.



In September 1940, the Supermarine factories in Woolston and Itchen were bombed, forcing production of the iconic Spitfire to be dispersed across Southampton and beyond. Requisitioned sites within a 50-mile radius were used, with many in Shirley, Millbrook, Newbury, Salisbury, Winchester, Wickham, Bishops Waltham, Botley and Chandler's Ford. More than 50% of a Spitfire's components were produced for Supermarine by subcontractors.

The Spitfire Makers Trust wishes to mark not just the places where production continued, but also to honour those who worked in them, through pennants and Blue Plaques placed at the various sites. On Thursday 5 March 2026, they celebrated the 90th anniversary of the maiden flight of the Spitfire from Eastleigh Airport. Hamble was mentioned as the airfield base where many Spitfires were flown to and from – mainly by women – to be delivered to locations throughout the country for onward flying by RAF pilots. My write-up doesn't do the talk justice – it was excellent. Contact Alan at spitfiremakers@btinternet.com.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14 April, when our guest will be Emma Scribbons from Mind Unwind. Why not join us? You will be very welcome. 2pm, Priory Centre, Hamble.

Bobby Conduit, 023 8045 3626

It only seems like a few weeks ago when we were celebrating Christmas, and now it's spring with Easter just around the corner. It's lovely to see all the spring flowers opening and the grass growing once again. Time to get the mower out!



Just a little reminder about this time of year. Easter is celebrated primarily to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his crucifixion, marking the most significant event in the Christian faith. It signifies the victory of life over death, the forgiveness of sins, and the promise of eternal life. Why not come along to one of our Easter services:

- Maundy Thursday at 7pm at St Andrew's
- Good Friday at 2pm at St Edward's Netley
- Easter Sunday at 10am at St Andrew's

Also at St Andrew's, our all-age service is gaining in popularity, with the next one being held at 4pm on Sunday 26 April. Come along and you will be made very welcome, with free refreshments served after the service.

HAMBLE GOOD NEIGHBOURS

I have been a member of the volunteer driving team for a good few years now. I get a lot of personal pleasure being able to help some of the less able residents of Hamble get to their medical appointments – whether that's at the local doctor's surgery, the Royal South Hants, or the General Hospital. Wherever our clients need to go, we try to oblige.

We are always looking for more drivers to join us. If you have time to spare, why not join our team? There is no obligation to commit to a set time or day – just pick what suits you from the list that is sent to all volunteer drivers. All fuel expenses are paid, and there is no impact on your car insurance; all companies allow for volunteer driving with no increase in premium. The main reward is being able to help people less fortunate than yourself.

For more details, call our lovely co-ordinator Sarah on 0845 643 0371, or visit our website – just search 'Hamble Good Neighbours'.

Ian Stephens

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Sydney Farm, now present-day Grantham Avenue.

HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: GROWING UP AND LIVING IN HAMBLE

At the Society's next meeting, our Treasurer, Christine Smith, will be talking about her life in Hamble as a young girl and how the village has changed over her lifetime.

Christine grew up at Sydney Farm – present-day Grantham Avenue – and will describe what it was like living there. She'll also talk about the village as it was: the schools she attended, the great variety of shops, and much more.

Christine will then take us through how she has seen the village change, including the celebration party at the end of the Second World War, complaints from neighbours about the smell from their farm pigs, and the village's delivery services in the 1950s – including their farm's Tommy Burdon's fruit and vegetable van. Other stories include the time her father was nearly killed when he fell under a rear tyre of his delivery tractor and trailer, plus a case of pig rustling!

The meeting will be on Thursday 2 April, 7.30pm, at the Memorial Hall (Rear Hall). New members and visitors are always welcomed! Our meeting fee is just £2. If you would like more information, please contact our secretary, Margaret Greenfield, on 023 8045 4373.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR GOVERNING BODY?



Joining a school governing body offers numerous benefits, including the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of children and young people, develop valuable skills, and expand one's professional network.

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Why become a governor?

- **Make a difference:** Help shape the school's direction and improve outcomes for students.
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- **Bring your perspective:** Ensure the school reflects the needs of its community.

What's in it for you?

- **Build new skills:** Develop leadership, strategic thinking and teamwork abilities.
- **Boost your career:** Gain experience that's valuable in many professional roles.
- **Training provided:** Access high-quality governor training and development.
- **Personal fulfilment:** Feel proud knowing you're helping young people thrive.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website, www.thehambleschool.co.uk/governors-ths or email headteacher@thehambleschool.co.uk



HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

After one of the wetter winters in the UK, there are signs that the breeding season for our birds is approaching, so we have been concentrating on shrub clearance. Under the direction of the Parish grounds team, we cleared paths and removed debris from the winter months' wind and rain. Future tasks include path and fencing repairs, along with our never-ending campaign to remove litter. Our 50-plus bird boxes have been checked, maintained, and where necessary replaced, and are now ready for nesting birds.

Want to know more?

- Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and on notice boards around the Common.
- **When we meet:** Mondays at 10am
- **Where we meet:**
 - Parish tasks: Roy Underdown Pavilion, SO31 4RN
 - Beach cleans & Eastleigh tasks: School Lane car park (if School Lane car park is closed, meet at Hamble Point Car Park.)
- **Get in touch:**
 - Visit hambleconservationvolunteers.org.uk
 - Email philiprawlinson123@btinternet.com
 - Call 07810 453138

COMMUNITY NEWS

HAMBLE LE RICE FLOWER CLUB

We've only just begun...!

Well, that's not strictly true. We've been in existence for 38 years, but having just had our AGM in March with some new members and committee members, it feels fresh and new.



We would love to see you at our April meeting on Monday 13 April at 1.30pm in Hamble Memorial Hall. The planned session is a practical one where you'll have a chance to either learn or practice some flower arranging. The title of your arrangement is up to you – for example, 'Easter' could feature flowers, eggs, chicks, or rabbits, while 'Singing in the Rain' could feature a little umbrella with flowers in a container underneath! You'll need to bring all your bits and pieces with you.

Alternatively, we'd be very happy to welcome new faces who just wish to observe, have a chat, and a cuppa – or perhaps take up a new hobby. Judy and Wendy are also continuing to run classes in the Roy Underdown Pavilion on the third Monday of the month. Please contact Judy if you're interested or wish to know more.

For further information, please contact a member of the committee:

- Sheila Barker (Chair) – 07729 733899
- Vanessa Baber (Hon Secretary) – 07867 982711
- Judy Raponi (Hon Treasurer) – 07732 553001

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

May: Monday 20 April

June: Monday 18 May

If you have something that you would like to contribute or are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please get in touch – danielle@smartmarketinguk.com



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*E1 concessions available to residents receiving qualifying benefits. Activities may be subject to change

HAMBLE PLAYERS CREATE THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT ON STAGE



Hamble Players, run by a wonderful group of enthusiastic volunteers, has become a beloved part of our village's arts scene, bringing together performers, technicians, and theatre lovers of all ages. Founded with the aim of making theatre enjoyable for everyone, the group presents a lively mix of productions each year, from timeless classics and comedies to fun pantomimes that delight families.

Rehearsing in the village hall, they create a warm and friendly atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. New members – no matter their experience level – are always encouraged to join. Behind every performance is a dedicated team working on set design, lighting, costumes, stage management and publicity, making sure each show runs smoothly and shines.

For this group, amateur dramatics isn't just about putting on a show; it builds friendships, boosts confidence, and strengthens the bonds of our community. With exciting plans already in the works for 2026, Hamble Players invite anyone interested in acting, backstage roles, or simply supporting local theatre to come along.

Details on membership and this year's productions can be found at www.hambleplayers.co.uk.

As you know, during January and February we held a bring and buy sale to raise funds to help support the fight against the proposed quarry at Hamble Airfield. This ended with a hugely successful coffee morning. It was wonderful that so many people came to show their support, and we were delighted that both Paul Holmes and Emma Westmacott attended and spoke. The final sum raised was an incredible £1,277.30 – a big thank you to everyone who took part.

On 3 March, some of our volunteers gave up their time to man a stall at the village fayre. It was a great opportunity to promote what we offer at The Hub. We are so much more than a book exchange – we have lots of regular weekly activities, a host of information on numerous services, a monthly book club, holiday activities for children, and much more. Most importantly, we're also there if you just want a chat or a quiet place to spend some time. If you have a few hours to spare each week and have considered joining our band of volunteers, come along and talk to us.

We now have a QR scanner, so any of our services can be paid for that way if you prefer not to use cash. Just make sure you let us know what you're paying for, so we can keep our records straight.

We look forward to seeing you at The Hub.



UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at Roy Underdown Pavilion

Full Council Meeting
Monday 13 April, 7pm

Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 27 April, 7pm

Easter School Holidays

30 March – 10 April

Last day of term will be Friday 27 March.

Hamble Local History Society

2 April
7.30pm

At Hamble Memorial Hall (Rear Hall). Christine Smith: 'Growing Up and Living in Hamble'.
£2 entry, visitors welcome.

Easter

Good Friday
3 April

Easter Sunday
5 April

Easter Monday
6 April

Councillor Application Deadline

9 April

St Andrew's Church All Age Service

26 April
From 4pm

Community Awards Nomination Deadline

27 April



Hamble Spring Food Festival

2 May
10am – 3pm

At Foreshore Car Park. Hampshire Farmers' Market producers, live music, craft stalls and entertainment for the family.

Annual Parish Meeting & Community Awards

6 May
From 6pm

At Hamble Primary School.